

INDIVIDUAL      PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND      HISTORICAL      TRUST  
INTERNAL      NR-ELIGIBILITY      REVIEW      FORM

Property/District      Name: St. Mary's College      Survey Number: SM - 37

Project: Kent Hall Renovation      Agency: St. Mary's College

Site visit by MHT Staff:       no    X yes    Name Bill Pencek, Beth Cole    Date 3/23/92

Eligibility recommended XXX      Eligibility not recommended   

Criteria:    XA      B      C      D    Considerations:      A      B      C      D      E      F      G      None

Justification for decision:      (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

St. Mary's College is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its historical importance in the state's approach to meeting the demands for higher education and in how the state early on decided to commemorate its founding. Established by the legislature in 1840 as St. Mary's Female Seminary, St. Mary's College is the first state owned institution for higher education in Maryland, preceding other such institutions by about 30 years. It was also established as a memorial to the founding of the colony and was charged with collecting and preserving meaningful archives and artifacts related to the early colony. The historic core of the campus, the area to the west of State Route 5, contains a number of buildings which reflect the struggles this institution survived in its quest to grow and develop into the four year institution it now is. Of particular significance is Calvert Hall, built in the 1840s as the first campus building and extensively rebuilt and enlarged following a fire in 1924. This building is a symbol of St. Mary's College as seen in the institution's seal featuring the front portico of the building.

Also of significance are St. Mary's Hall, built in 1907-1908 as the music hall; Alumni Hall which was dedicated in 1924 and almost immediately turned over to the college by the alumni association for use as student dormitory because of the fire at Calvert Hall; and Kent Hall, dedicated in 1941, which is described in the school's history as the state's centennial present to the college. None of these buildings are of individual distinction for National Register eligibility but together relate the history and development of the school from the beginning to about 1950 when St. Mary's College began a rapid expansion of its facilities in its drive to become a four year institution. This expansion included the development of a north campus across Route 5. For purposes of National Register eligibility, the historic area is roughly bound by the St. Mary's River, Trinity Episcopal Church grounds, and a line along Route 584 intended to include college property. Precise boundaries require more research into campus development.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Monument School of the People,  
Frederick J. Fauz, 1990

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Prepared by: Frederick J. Fauz

Beth Cole, Bill Pencek *EJCde*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

April 13, 1992  
Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

*R. Andrews*  
Reviewer, NR program

22 Apr 92  
Date

Survey No. SM - 37

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☒ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☐ Agriculture  
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☒ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: district

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): college

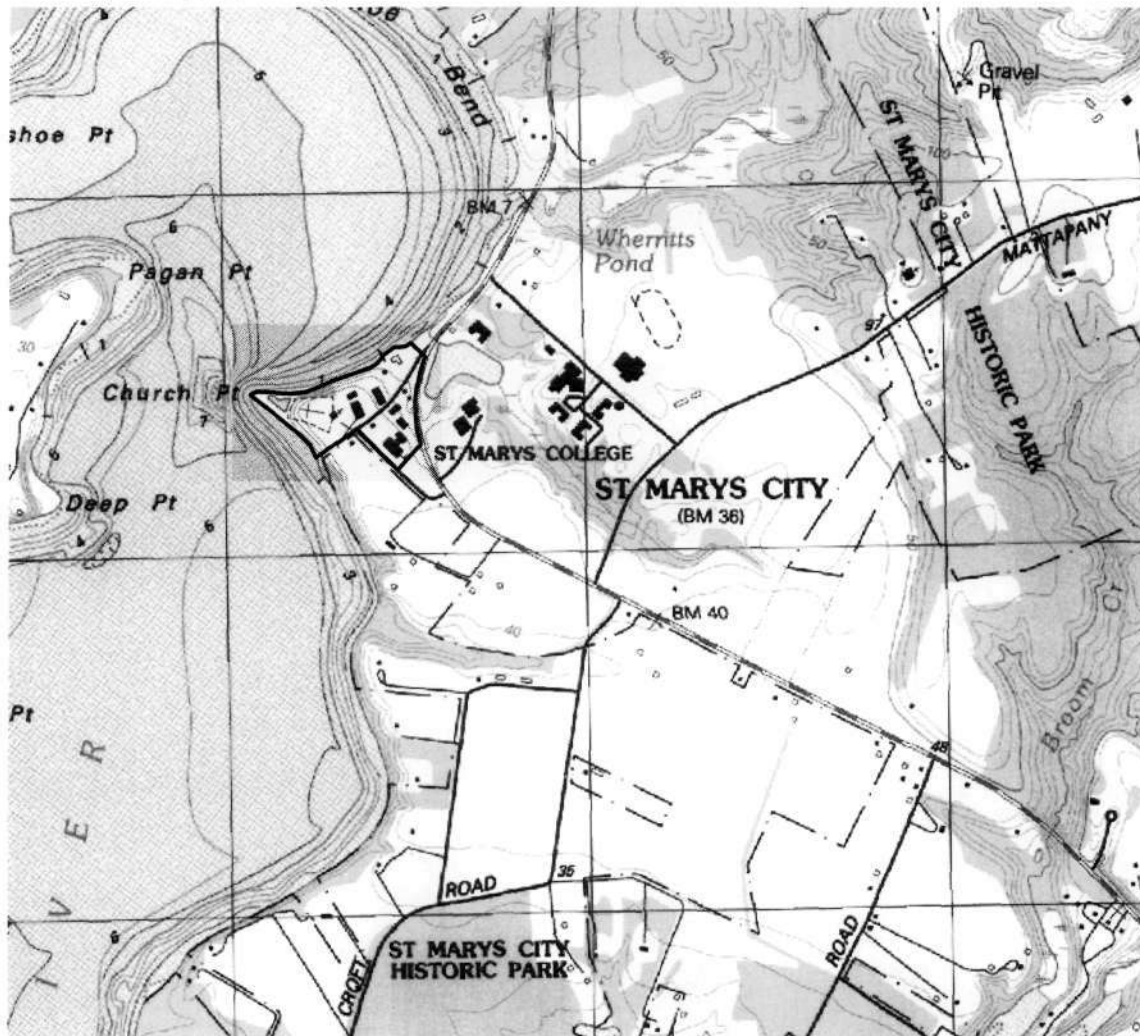
Known Design Source: unknown

SM-37

St. Mary's College Historic District

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's City Quadrangle





S M -37

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

*founded 1839*

*St. Mary's City*

A small but rapidly expanding college complex. ~~the~~ St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded in 1839 as the result of an act of ~~legislation by~~ the Maryland General Assembly. Originally a female seminary, it is now a four-year, co-educational, liberal arts college.

SM-37  
St. Mary's College

1/2" = 100 ft.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE  
SM-37



## Department of Public Improvements

Wigley, Hon. Henry C.

1950 Maryland Builds: Report of the Department of Public Improvements of the State of Maryland for the period July 1, 1947 to December 31, 1949. Baltimore, Maryland.

130

MARYLAND BUILDS

## ST. MARY'S SEMINARY JUNIOR COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

R. BASCOM BROUN, JR., *Chairman*MISS MAY RUSSELL, *President*

This institution was chartered in 1839, under the name of St. Mary's Female Seminary, as a monument to commemorate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Maryland. It operates as a four-year junior college, the curriculum covering the last two years of high school and the first two years of college work. In 1949 the name of the institution was changed to St. Mary's Seminary Junior College. At present, it has a student population of 103, with 76 living at the school, while the normal housing capacity is 76. The school is located at St. Mary's City, St. Mary's County, on State Highway No. 5. On the 7 acres of gently rolling terrain are located—4 buildings for students, employees and administration, and 2 buildings for training and recreational purposes, and 6 buildings for utilities and miscellaneous purposes, making a total of 12. Of this number, 2 are of fire-resistant construction, 4 of masonry with wood floor systems, and 6 of wood or other non-fire-resistant construction. The institution has its own source of water supply, and a sewage treatment plant. Electric power is purchased from an outside source, while heat is furnished from several small heating plants.

New construction and improvements in the amount of \$37,000 were authorized under the General Construction Loan of 1949, in addition to \$36,000 provided by the General Construction Loan of 1947. Post-War funds have added \$48,110, and made it possible to perform some additional construction.

Construction projects at the school include:

(1) Construction of bulkhead along the St. Mary's River to protect the property from shore erosion. This work was completed through the assistance of the State Roads Commission in 1947. Studies are underway by the Department of Public Improvements to prevent additional shore erosion, although the further use of bulkheads may not be the proper solution to this problem.

(2) A new heating plant has been installed in the demonstration cottage; and the sewage plant's chlorination system has been replaced.

(3) Final plans are nearing completion and bids will be received early in February for a faculty cottage which will include 4 apartments and 4 double rooms, a laundry and other necessary facilities for the faculty. This structure is necessary since housing is at a premium in this remotely located institution.

(4) Negotiations are nearly complete for the purchase of 3.32 acres of additional land in order that the school may have a more adequate athletic field and room for expansion.

Other items of a maintenance nature, including the waterproofing of one of the brick walls, were accomplished during 1948 and 1949.

See page 206 for complete schedule of construction completed and in progress.

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Centreville Ar  
Crisfield Armo  
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†Frostburg Mo  
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†Greenbelt Mo  
Hagerstown A  
\*Holabird Ar  
Hyattsville Ar  
Kensington A  
†La Plata Mot  
Laurel Armo  
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**ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL**  
Baltimore, Maryland

DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Heating Revision and Replacements.....		\$ 8,591.08 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) C. T. King, Inc.	May 1949
Furnish and Install Red Quarry Tile over existing Terrazzo and 6" Cove Base.....		1,439.10 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) Selby & Battersby	January 1949
Miscellaneous Repairs and Deferred Maintenance.....		24,428.82 (A)	1945 Post War, Item 221	D.P.I. (Architect) Various Contractors	January 1949
Repairs and Maintenance.....		525.00 (A)	Solomons Material	Institutional Labor	Non-reimbursable sales
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION.....		\$34,984.00			

**ST. MARY'S SEMINARY JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
St. Mary's City, Maryland

DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Lodge Heating System, Hot Water Lines and Sewage Chlorination.....		\$ 6,402.18 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 121 \$ 163.00 Solomons Material 536.25 Other 5,702.93	Sandlass, Wieman (Engrs.) McNew Brothers	December 1948
Bulkhead Construction.....		24,708.31 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 117 10,000.00 1945 Post War, Item 241 11,310.00 1945 Post War, Item 243 3,398.31	State Roads Commission	September 1947
Purchase of Land—3.4 Acres.....		10,000.00 (B)	1949 G C L, Item 128	Jeannette B. Howard (Owner)	Costs thru Dec. 1949
Lighting and Electric Fixtures.....		4,733.25 (B)	1949 G C L, Item 129	D.P.I. (Architect) Simpson Electric Co.	Costs thru Dec. 1949
Topographical Survey—7 Acres.....		595.00 (A)	1949 G C L, Item 128	J. E. Hicks (Engrs.)	October 1949
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION.....		\$36,438.74			
TOTAL COST OF LAND.....		\$10,000.00			

**SPRINGFIELD STATE HOSPITAL**  
Sykesville, Maryland

DESCRIPTION	JOB No.	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ARCHITECT & CONTR.	COMPLETION
Employees' Building (1)..... (Jones—New Women's Building) Capacity—120	47-B-2	\$465,836.38 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 42 \$398,345.71 1945 Post War, Item 114 41,104.64 Solomons Material 26,386.03	Henry Powell Hopkins Mullan Contracting Co.	July 1949
	47-R-3	60,642.99 (A)	1947 G C L, Item 42 937.63 48 248.70	Henry Powell Hopkins Henry A. Knott, Inc.	July 1948

206

MARYLAND BUILDS

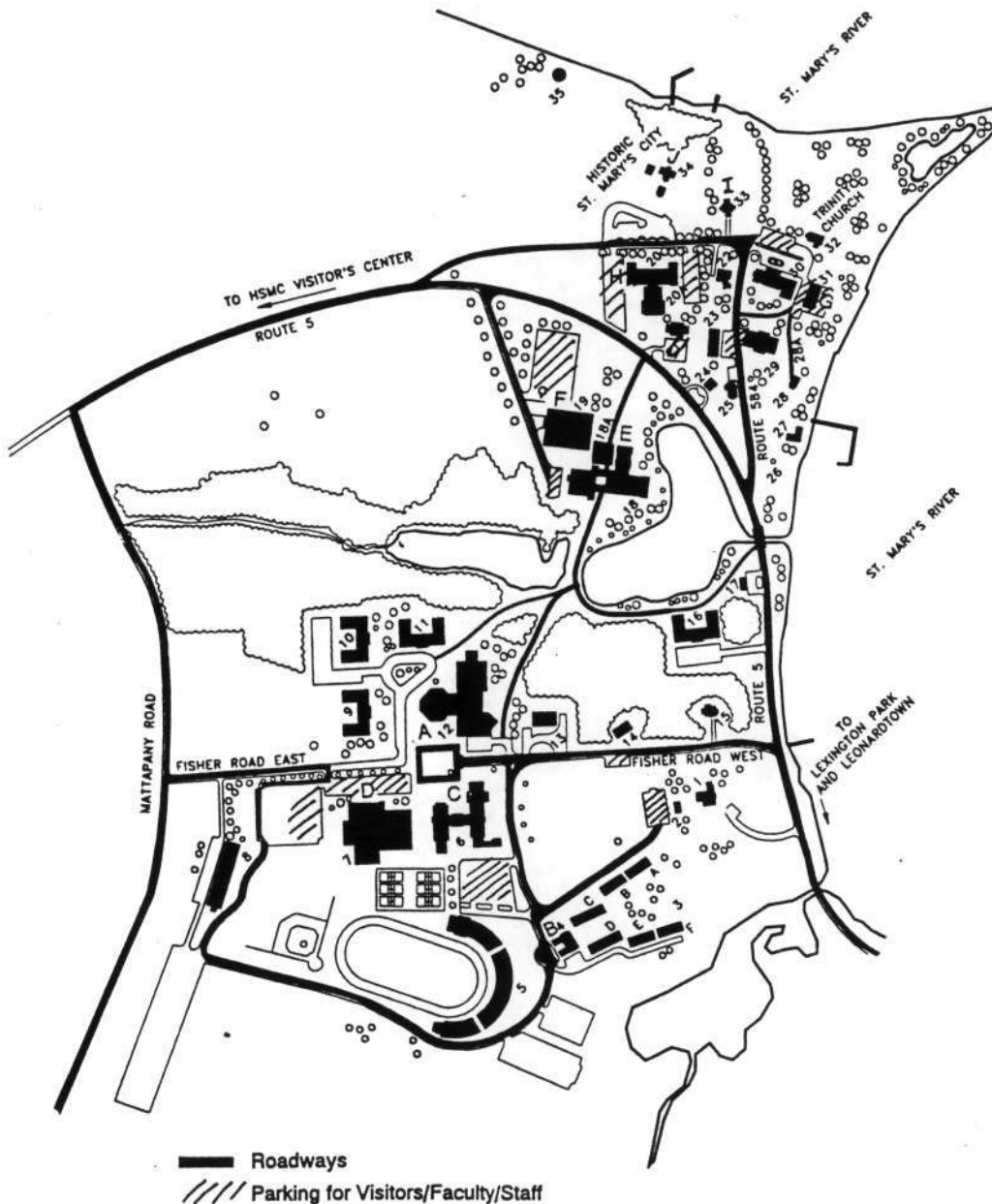
REPORT

SM-37 (1950)

The addition of townhouses and the new science building have changed driving patterns and parking. We hope this map will help you find your way around campus.

## WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE!

*Note: This map is oriented as if you were driving TO the campus FROM Lexington Park or Leonardtown. Roadways are marked with solid red. Parking areas for visitors are indicated with lighter red. Regularly visited buildings are highlighted.*



## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND CAMPUS MAP

### Key to Places Most Commonly Used for Public Events

- A. Montgomery Hall
- Fine Arts Center
- B. Daugherty-Palmer Commons
- C. Science Building
- D. Somerset Gymnasium
- E. St. Mary's Library
- F. Charles Hall
- G. St. Mary's Hall
- H. Anne Arundel Hall
- I. State House (HSMC)
- J. Farthing's Ordinary (HSMC)

MONUMENT SCHOOL OF THE PEOPLE



# MONUMENT SCHOOL ~ OF THE PEOPLE ~

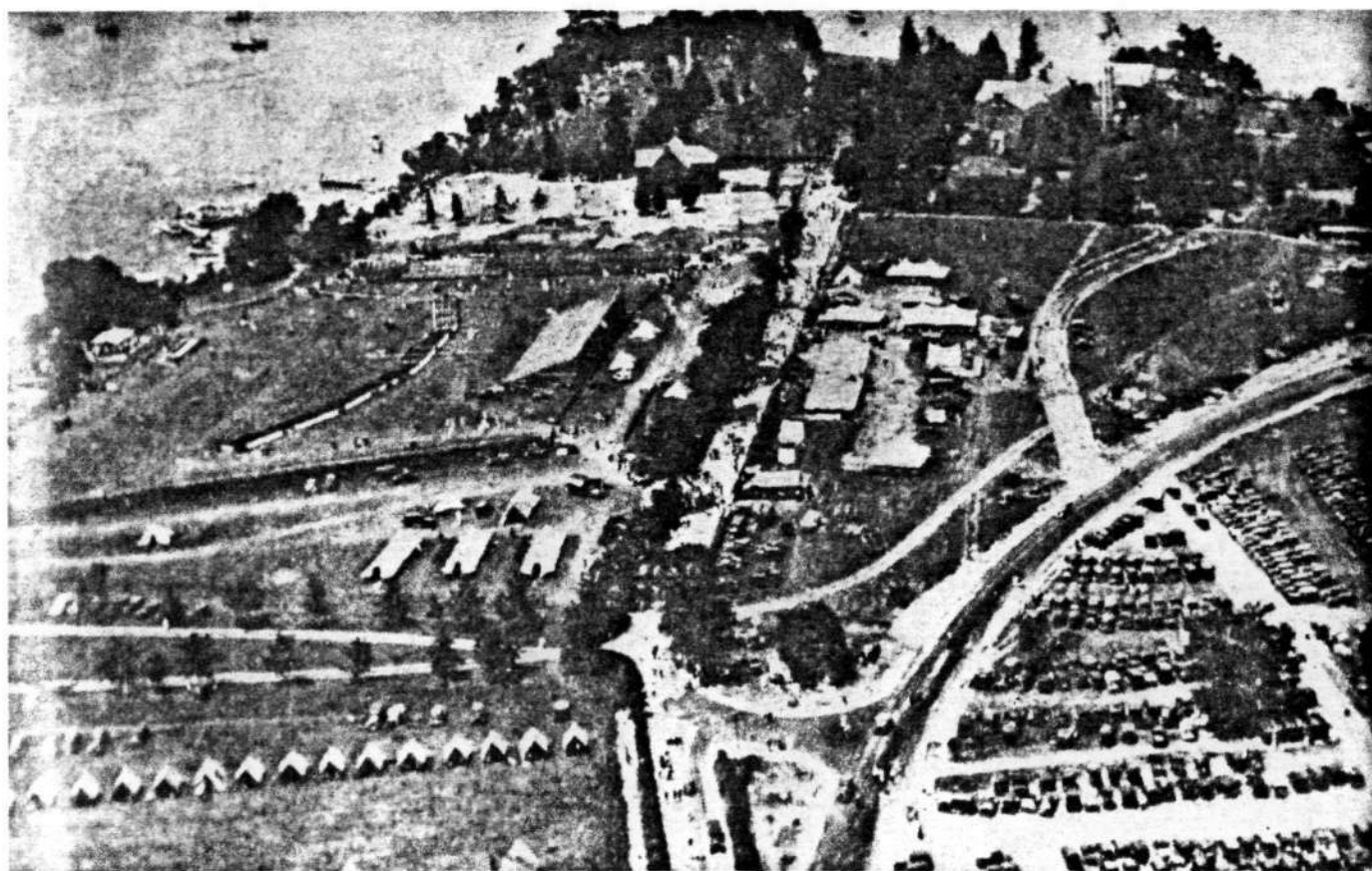
*A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland 1840-1990*



to the institution. The year-long commemoration of the school's founding began on Commencement Day, 12 June 1939, with Governor Herbert R. O'Connor delivering the address to nineteen collegiate and twenty-three high school graduates. The theme of graduation weekend, "The Birth of the State's Living Monument," was carried through the next academic year. The centennial of "Enactment Day" was celebrated in grand style on Thursday, 21 March 1940. Press reports estimated that some 500 visitors attended the ceremonies, including the oldest living alumna (Mrs. Cornelia D. Jones, 86, an 1869 graduate); Mrs. Maddox, the former principal; representatives from Hood College and Charlotte Hall Academy; and the Leonardtown Fire Department, "in full regalia with its new equipment." The Seminary Glee Club appeared in period costumes on the stairway of Calvert Hall and presented songs from the 1830s–1840s, and at "high tea," all of the faculty members and several distinguished alumnae dressed in hoop skirts to serve as hostesses. Katherine Scarborough, a reporter

for the *Baltimore Sun*, wrote of the occasion: "Nobody gave a speech. None was necessary. The school spoke for itself, and in the exhibition room there were relics in plenty to tell the story of what had gone before." These included Board of Trustee Minutes from the 1840s, one of the Seminary's original desks from the 1850s, and "a silver fork used by two generations of girls at a time when students furnished their own cutlery." Trustee Grason, 84-year-old grandson of the governor who signed the Seminary legislation in 1840, even loaned a newel post from the seventeenth-century State House.

Less than three months after the "Enactment Day" festivities, Commencement Week of 1940 brought a second, and even grander, centennial observance. An event-filled weekend began with public recitals by the music and speech departments on Friday, 7 June. Saturday was devoted to "our earliest and latest alumnae," and at an evening banquet, the oldest graduates inducted the Class of 1940 into the Alumnae Association. Congressman Lansdale G. Sasser of Prince George's



*The Tercentenary Celebration adjoining the Seminary campus, from the Baltimore American, Sunday, 17 June 1934. Notice the new replica of the State House of 1676 and the bleachers (center left) for the pageant, "St. Maries, Mother of Maryland." The large tents (center) occupied part of the old townlands where Anne Arundel Hall would be built twenty years later. To the right, is the new road (present Route 5) that was cut specifically to direct the heavy traffic away from campus and toward the parking areas. Many thousands of revelers slept in their cars for two days due to the shortage of overnight accommodations.*





*"The Seminary Building" (the original Calvert Hall), as it probably appeared soon after construction was completed in October 1845. A visitor in 1869 described it as "a large brick building that stands dreary and treeless, looking like a factory. . . . {The campus} would be an excellent place for a convent of Carthusians, but to banish lively girls to this lonely region, lovely though it is, . . . must have been the conception of some malicious and dyspeptic old bachelor."*

ture, it allowed for the purchase of six acres of Trinity Church land from the Vestry of William and Mary Parish (\$609.25) and the construction of the Seminary Building (\$13,486.52), along with fixtures, furnishings, and fencing (\$2,002). For an additional \$100.00, the trustees also procured a right of way for "an avenue 20 feet wide," which by 1847 would connect the school to distant cities via the steamboat port at Brome's Wharf. (This road is still extant today, leading to the river alongside the Reconstructed State House.) On 3 August 1844, the trustees laid the cornerstone of the Seminary Building, with Randolph Jones, son of the trustee and heir to Cross Manor, delivering a stirring address. In dedicating the largest building to rise at the ancient capital in over a century-and-a-half, Jones reflected the local optimism for a brighter future: "May it be the morning star of moral light which brings in day, beautiful day, to Old St. Mary's." Three weeks later, Trustees Combs, Jones, and Bennett deeded the Seminary campus, including a portion "of the ancient city of St. Mary's," to the State of Maryland—probably the most significant single event that ensured the survival of the school to this day (21 August 1844, St. Mary's County Land Record JH No. 13, f. 381).

When contractor Thomas Evans completed the

two-story, double-porticoed "Plantation Greek" Seminary Building on 27 October 1845, the hopes and dreams of countless supporters seemed fulfilled. This original Calvert Hall\*—although not officially named as such until 1955—was described by a Georgetown resident soon after construction as a "beautiful mansion." It was an imposing sight on a significant site and a fitting symbol of a community renaissance. The building's many chimneys and six white columns, thick and square, towered above nearby Trinity Churchyard, the tranquil resting place of colonial generations, and faced toward the Potomac River, alive with the traffic of commerce. Looking out upon the ruins of the old capital, this newest monument on those hallowed grounds contrasted sharply with the oldest—the massive but decaying mulberry tree that had greeted Leonard Calvert's arrival in 1634. The only other landmarks in St. Mary's City were Trinity Episcopal Church, which had been built with State House bricks in 1829, and the recently completed home of Dr. John M. Brome (1819–1887) at his St. Mary's Manor plantation in Governor's Field.

On 27 October 1845, the same day that Calvert

\*Hereafter, "Calvert Hall" will be used instead of the "Seminary Building," since most people know this centerpiece of the campus by that name.

September 1864 and 15 August 1867, and she probably remained in that post until her death in August 1869; however, newspapers were silent on the subject of the Seminary in 1863, 1865, and 1866. Textbooks from the school—*Elements of Mythology; or, Classical Fables of the Greeks and Romans* (21st ed., Philadelphia: Moss, Brother and Co., 1860) and Mary A. Swift's *First Lessons on Natural Philosophy for Children* (rev. ed., Hartford: William J. Hamersley, 1862)—reveal that one Lucy Dunbar, who signed and dated the inside covers, was attending classes at the Seminary in February 1864 and May 1865. Considering that teachers and students had been in short supply during the best of times; that several of the trustees were distracted by the war and even joined military units; and that few Southern-sympathizing county families would have wanted their young daughters away from home and so near to several Union Army encampments (Cross Manor, Point Lookout, and Leonardtown), it is incredible that the Seminary continued to hold classes for even part of the Civil War.

### *Second Rising of the Phoenix*

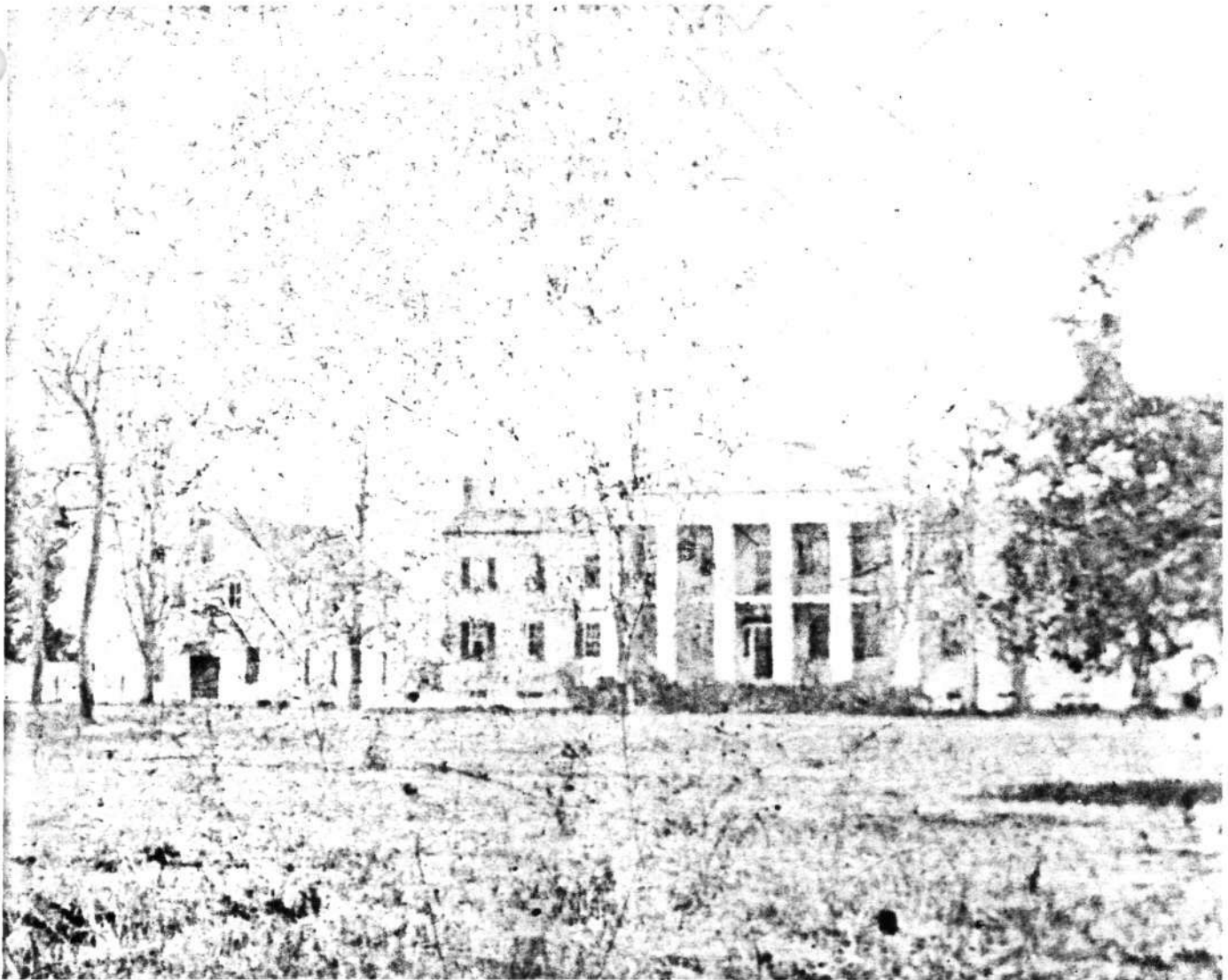
After a troubled quarter-century of bare survival, the Seminary's perseverance in the face of scandal, indebtedness, and the turmoil of war was rewarded by the state. Less than a decade after it had first resuscitated

itself more rescued the Seminary from certain collapse between 1864 and 1868. The timely arrival of essential financial support from Annapolis finally put the Seminary on its feet and permitted the school to prosper for the next 120 years.

Immediately following the Civil War, the State of Maryland belatedly created a comprehensive system of free public education, but instead of closing the troublesome boarding school in St. Mary's City in the name of progress or conformity, public officials consistently regarded the Seminary as an essential part of Maryland's emerging educational future. Under the pro-Union, abolitionist Whig governor, Augustus W. Bradford, the state in 1864 appropriated \$2,000 to help retire the debts of the Seminary. Bradford's successor, the "Know-Nothing" ex-mayor of Baltimore, Thomas Swann, signed "An Act for the Relief of the Saint Mary's Female Seminary," which had passed the General Assembly on 23 March 1867. This law appropriated \$1,500 "or so much thereof as shall be necessary to repair and put in proper condition the said Seminary." A year later, on 28 March 1868, the General Assembly pledged a continuing annual allocation of \$2,500, payable every 1 April, "for the preservation of the Institution"—especially Calvert Hall, which was described in the legislation as a "structure . . . of such magnitude and character that the incidental expenses necessary to keep up repairs has



*Old Calvert Hall, with painted or white-washed walls, as it probably appeared from the mid-1870s until 1924. This rare view shows the two-story porch facing toward Trinity Rectory that would have served as a "fire escape" in this period.*



*A rare view of the frame Annex (dedicated in June 1892)—the first academic building constructed on campus since 1845.*

construction projects had been funded, visited the St. Mary's campus and made a thorough investigation of its operations. He criticized the unreliable water pumping system, the method of sewage disposal, deficient furnishings in classrooms and dormitories, the shortage of books in the library, the absence of science laboratories, and the byzantine accounting procedures that required the principal to cover virtually all expenses out of a single, annual Board appropriation of between \$5,200 and \$5,800. Much of Davenport's lengthy report smacked of an urban bias against an institution that he considered too rural and too small to justify state support in a new era of standardized, "efficient" public education. Davenport unfairly criticized the Board for not providing buildings, furnishings, and student services that only more money could have addressed; ironically, his investigation of the school immediately preceded a period (1915–1917) when the state treasurer failed to honor the financial commitments originally made to

the Seminary by the legislature in 1868. Forced to borrow thousands of dollars to meet routine operating expenses and to pay teachers' salaries, the trustees successfully weathered the crisis while continuing to support half the student body on full scholarships. Indeed, during this period, the bonds grew stronger between Board members and the Seminary's "efficient corps of teachers."

The students and staff of St. Mary's Female Seminary had learned long before that abundant financial resources and elegant campus facilities have little direct bearing on the educational excellence of a school. Even in its darkest, most destitute days, the Seminary had placed its emphasis on the close contacts between caring teachers and a small core of interested students. This boarding school aspired to create, and had largely achieved, a family of learning across the generations, in which a highly controlled academic environment nurtured the individual talents of varied students. In 1914,





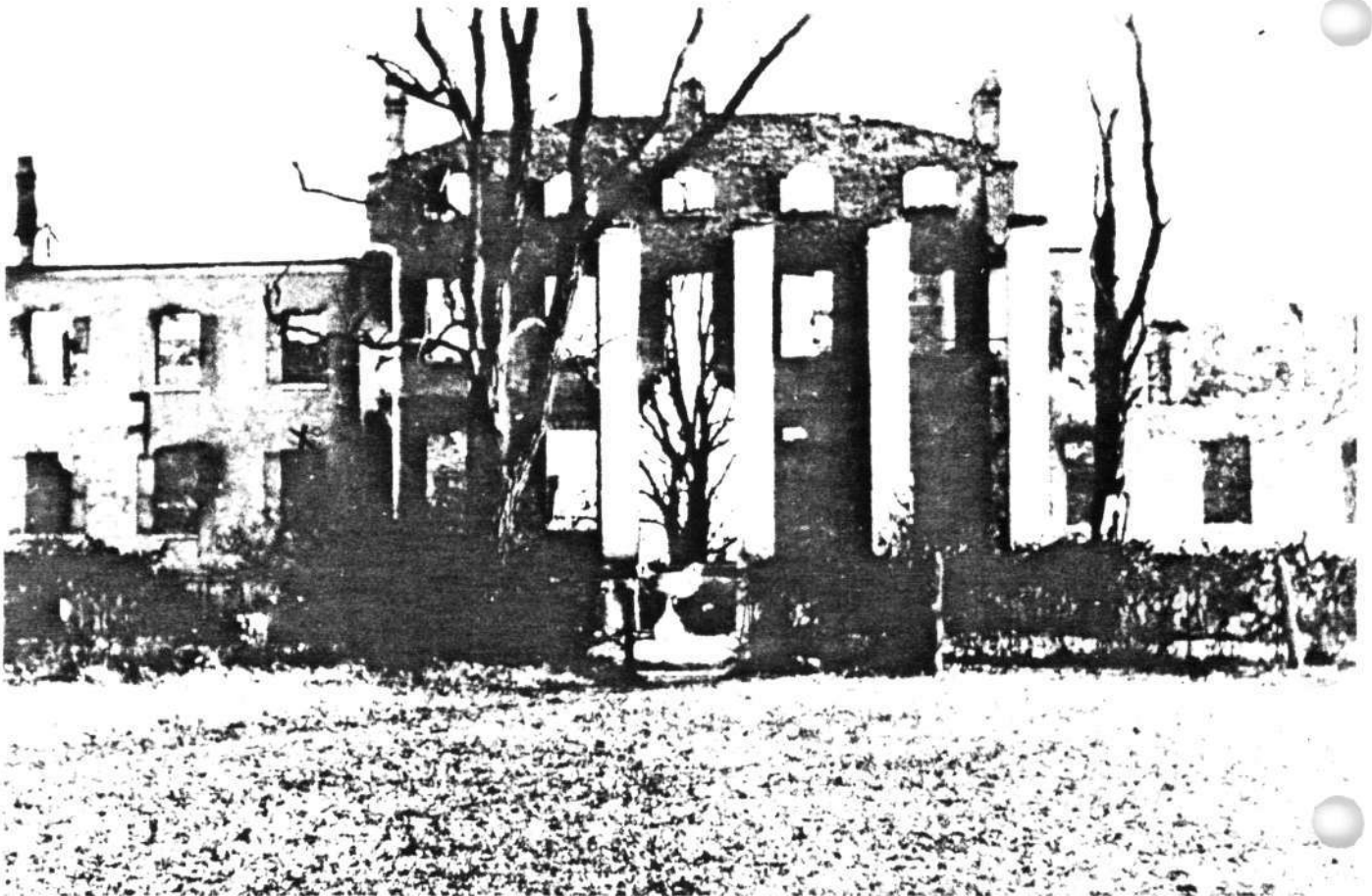
*The School Building, completed in Spring 1903; shown here soon after construction and before it was painted to match the main building. Note the windmill to the left, which powered the pump for the artesian well.*



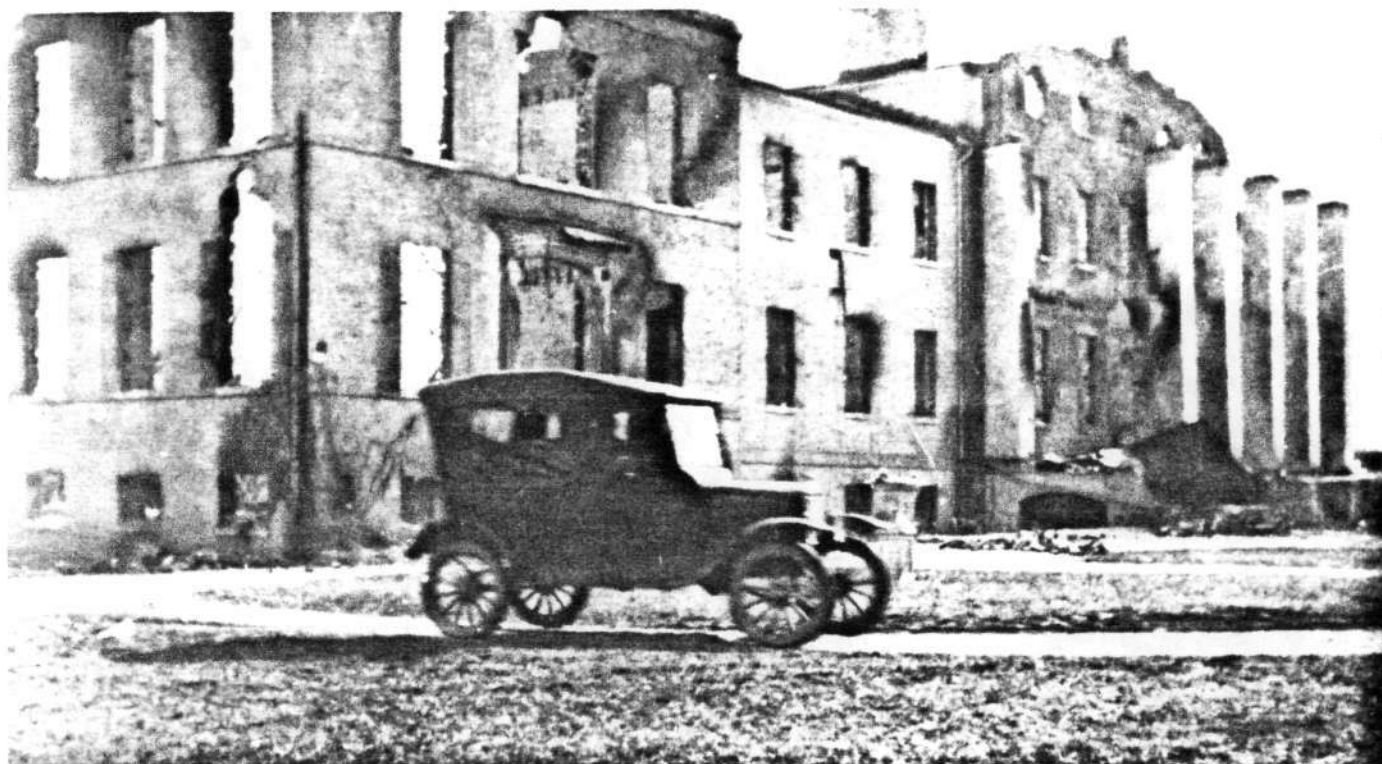
*An early view of Music Hall (now St. Mary's Hall), in the foreground. This building was dedicated in June 1908 and was the last construction on campus until 1925.*



*Calvert Hall, St. Mary's Female Seminary, as it looked before the fire of 1924.*



*The ruins of old Calvert Hall after the fire of 5 January 1924.*



*The campus devastation that greeted Principal France on the morning of Sunday, 6 January 1924. The February 1924 issue of The Seminary Signal (student newspaper, Vol. 1, No. 4) memorialized the old building: "It stood on the brow of a hill, Looking out where the blue water gleams; Stately and white and still—A castle of youthful dreams."*

home, Whitmore fell from his ice-coated roof and suffered injuries that incapacitated him for several weeks.

Returning from Christmas vacation on that Saturday evening, Miss France heard someone shout, "St. Mary's Seminary's burned to the ground!" as her bus pulled into Leonardtown. She arrived on campus in time to see the raging fire finish off the old building. As the new principal viewed the smoldering ruins, a pathetic memorial to eight decades of operation, Stephen M. Jones, a trustee since 1901 and now the Board treasurer, asked Miss France what was to be done. According to her recollection, she answered, very much in the spirit of Scarlett O'Hara: "We shall carry on!"

At dawn on Sunday, 6 January, all that remained of the Seminary's "beautiful mansion" were a few bleak and blackened walls and several charred chimneys. Pianos and furniture lay piled in Trinity Churchyard, while books, files, and paintings were stacked on the rectory porches. Community spirit was high, as the many local citizens who had fought the fire until 1 a.m. returned to the church ten hours later for a service of thanksgiving. Filing out of Trinity, they were greeted with tables of donated food, which would sustain them through long hours of moving salvaged possessions into Music Hall. Miss France rose early on Sunday morning and began the frantic task of calling the teachers and

students to tell them that the school would not reopen on the following day as scheduled. For the rest of Sunday, the principal held an unending series of meetings with school trustees, local officials, and the county's legislative delegation to discuss the future of St. Mary's Female Seminary.

Not everyone believed that the old school with only sixty students would or should survive, and even the most optimistic supporters had difficulty predicting where and when it could reopen. The trustees considered holding classes at Porto Bello, the well-known eighteenth-century manor house in Drayden, owned and offered by Trustee J. Allan Coad, but a newspaper article on Monday, 7 January, announced that the school would resume operations within two weeks at the Scotland Beach Hotel near Point Lookout. After two tense days of doubts, fully expecting state officials to close the school permanently, Miss France finally received the welcome news on Monday evening that Governor Albert C. Ritchie and the State Board of Public Works had given preliminary approval to construct temporary housing *on campus*—a vital commitment that would allow the Seminary to reopen and ultimately to remain at the historic first capital. As it had done so many times before, the persevering St. Mary's "phoenix" would rise again from the ashes, this time literally. But on this oc-



### *Two Seasons of Celebrations*

In the dark days of the Great Depression, the State of Maryland and St. Mary's Female Seminary offered the public two special celebrations that relieved the tension of troubled times. The first, in 1934, was the 300th anniversary of Maryland's founding at St. Mary's City; the second, in 1939-40, was the 100th anniversary of the Seminary's founding as the Monument School. Both events were hopeful reminders of the benefits of perseverance, recalling that the residents of this site in the distant past had survived crises and surmounted challenges to create a notable collective legacy of persistent struggle for all the present and future citizens of Maryland.

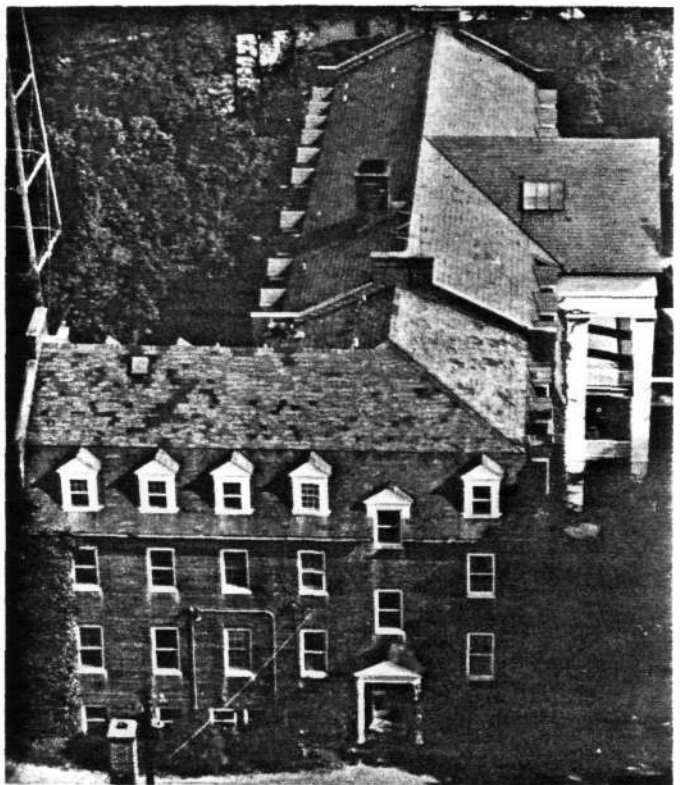
The Maryland tercentennial presented quite a contrast to the state's bicentennial in 1834, for finally, one hundred years later, St. Mary's City and its Monument School were to be the main focus of activity and attention. Since the founding of the Seminary, school officials had dreamed of such an occasion to increase the public's awareness of the ancient capital and its antebellum academy. Maryland's 300th birthday party loomed large in the minds of Seminary administrators and state officials, and every campus improvement for five years before the anniversary was justified on the basis of the huge crowds and extensive press corps that would visit St. Mary's City in 1934.

In May 1927, the high school senior class donated the large, ornamental cast-iron arch that graced the Seminary entrance gate until the late 1960s. In April 1929, Trustees J. Allan Coad, George C. Peverley, and Lawrence P. Williams finally convinced their colleagues in the state legislature to pay for the construction of the riverside wing of Calvert Hall, which would complete the building as the architect had originally conceived it. With the General Assembly's appropriation of \$30,000 and Governor Ritchie's personal assurances of an additional \$10,000 to come later, the Board of Trustees borrowed the money that allowed construction to begin immediately. On 11 September 1929, after nine feverish months of work by construction crews, arriving students moved into the newly expanded Calvert Hall, complete with a fresh coat of whitewash on its square columns and a huge painted-iron replica of the state seal perched high on the front portico. As luck would have it, the Seminary finished the campus centerpiece and symbol just in time—only six weeks before the stock market crash on "Black Tuesday," 24 October 1929.

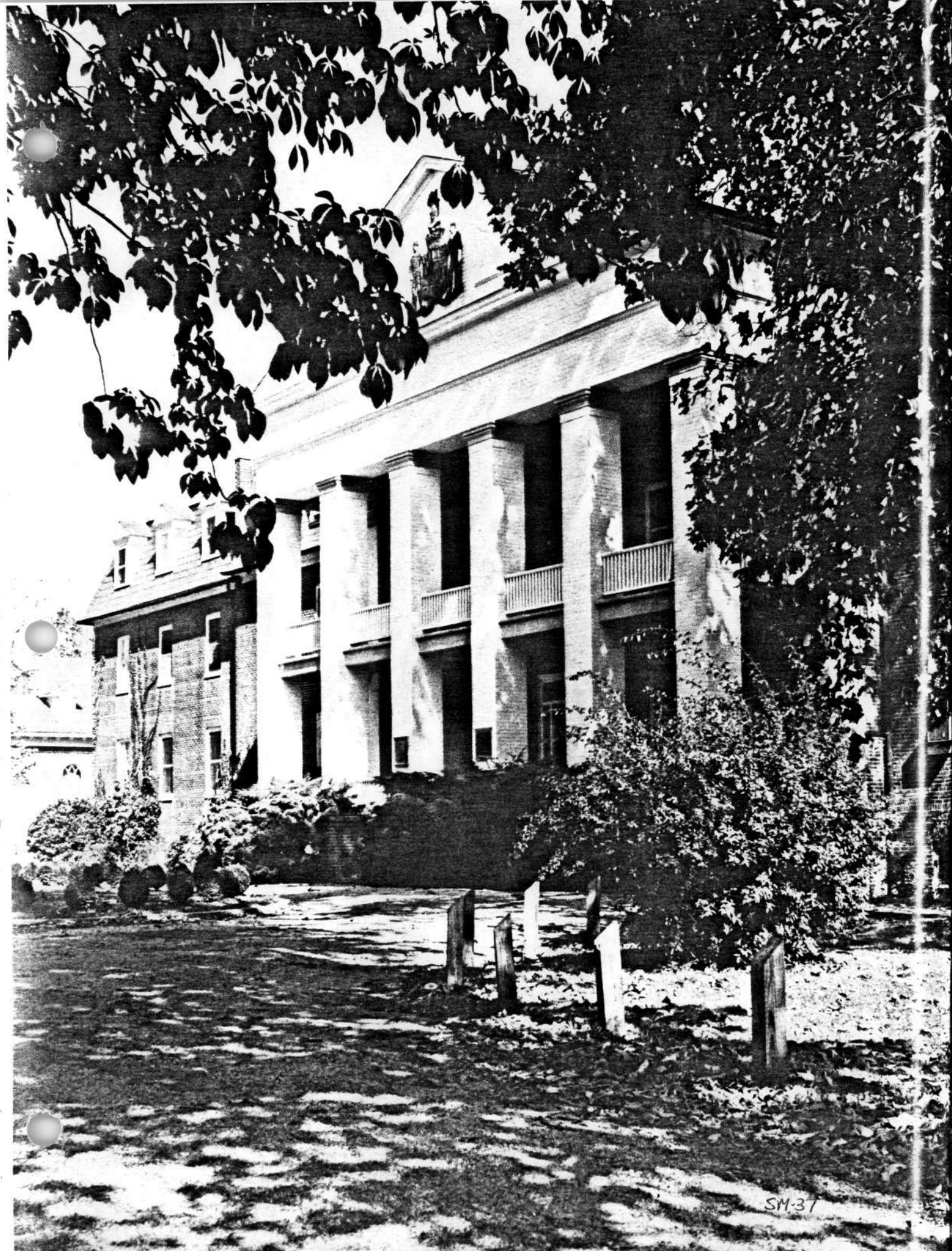
With optimistic preparations for Maryland's 300th anniversary taking precedence over the gloomy projections of an expanding national economic crisis, the Sem-

inary undertook several other projects that improved its appearance or efficiency. For the first time since the campus was purchased in 1844, the school acquired additional land for expansion, buying Mrs. Lilburn's small lot across Brome's Wharf Road following her death in 1932. The trustees granted a 99-year lease on part of the property to the State Tercentenary Commission as the site of Hans Schuler's "Freedom of Conscience Monument"; on the other portion of the Lilburn lot, they relocated the "Caretaker's Cottage," or "White House," which had been built from the "Barracks" of 1924 and which today houses the Advancement and Alumni offices. Storage sheds and the school garage were constructed on that site as well, housing a growing fleet of Seminary vehicles that included a 1928 bus (called "Our Pride and Joy") and a 1933 pick-up truck. In 1931, the school was connected to county electricity for the first time and converted the small brick building that had housed its Delco generator into a science laboratory. About the same time, another well was drilled and a new pump, water tank, and chlorinator were installed.

The final campus project, and one of the most memorable, was completed just before the official tercentennial activities commenced in June 1934. Two years earlier, the Board of Trustees had given permission



*A later view of Calvert Hall, clearly showing the wing (in the foreground) that the architect designed in 1924 but was added only in September 1929.*



SM-37



soon "enter upon an enlarged field of honor and usefulness"—and change the future of Maryland education.

### *Launching the Junior College*

The Seminary trustees in the 1920s proved to be as far-sighted and courageous as their nineteenth-century predecessors in not permitting short-term problems to disrupt their long-term dreams. On 19 February 1926, the trustees' executive committee voted to borrow another \$5,000 to meet current expenses and discussed "eliminating at least two teachers [one-third of the faculty] and curtailing the course of study" to stem the school's mounting indebtedness. However, at a meeting held *only three weeks later*, the full Board promptly dismissed such pessimism. At this historic 10 March meeting, the trustees approved a resolution by Judge Camaller and Delegate Williams that directed the principal and the executive committee to confer with the State Superintendent of Education at the earliest opportunity

"with a view to raising the standard of the school to that of a Junior College." On 21 April, Miss France reported on the committee's encouraging meeting with Superintendent Albert S. Cook, and two days later, the Board of Trustees formally agreed to offer a first-year junior college curriculum in 1926–27, with second-year coursework to follow soon after.

This was a remarkably daring step for a school that had been on death's door just two years before, but it followed the typical, traditional pattern at St. Mary's, for, since its founding, the Seminary had always rebounded from a crisis stronger than before. Now, St. Mary's would surprise everyone who thought of it only as a nostalgic reminder of the nineteenth century and would reward the state's confidence with a sudden, creative shift to collegiate instruction.

The Fall 1926 catalog announced the new venture for the school. St. Mary's was described as a "boarding school for girls, on the high school and junior college



*Seminarians waiting for a steamboat at Brome's Wharf, St. Mary's City. When the Junior College was created in 1926–1928, steamboats were still an important means of transportation in Southern Maryland. Vessels of the Baltimore and Virginia Steamboat Company left from Baltimore at 4:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday and arrived at Brome's Wharf about 4:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Students were met by the Seminary custodian, who transported their trunks to Calvert Hall by cart or wheelbarrow. The steamboat age came to a sad and sudden end by 1935, due to company bankruptcies, increased competition from automobiles and improved state roads, and a fierce storm on 23 August 1933 that destroyed many of the region's wharves.*

ing standards St. Mary's students were actually staying to graduate—182 in 1979, 194 in 1980, 169 in 1981, 170 in 1982, and 215 in 1983. Every graduating class after 1979 had a valedictorian based on quality point average, and beginning in 1977, the College instituted an annual awards ceremony (since 1980, called the Honors Convocation) to recognize students' academic achievement and leadership.

St. Mary's College began to generate a focused momentum again after what seemed like a wild goose chase of shifting priorities earlier in the 1970s. The school was still innovative—and certainly inexpensive—enough for most students, and the professors had a renewed sense of the wonderful, albeit less idealistic, potential of this still-young College. The news media responded with favorable publicity for a change, especially regarding new extracurricular activities and community-oriented events. In the midst of crisis in April 1977,



*The solitude of venerable Calvert Hall reflected the calm conventionality that returned to the St. Mary's campus after 1977.*

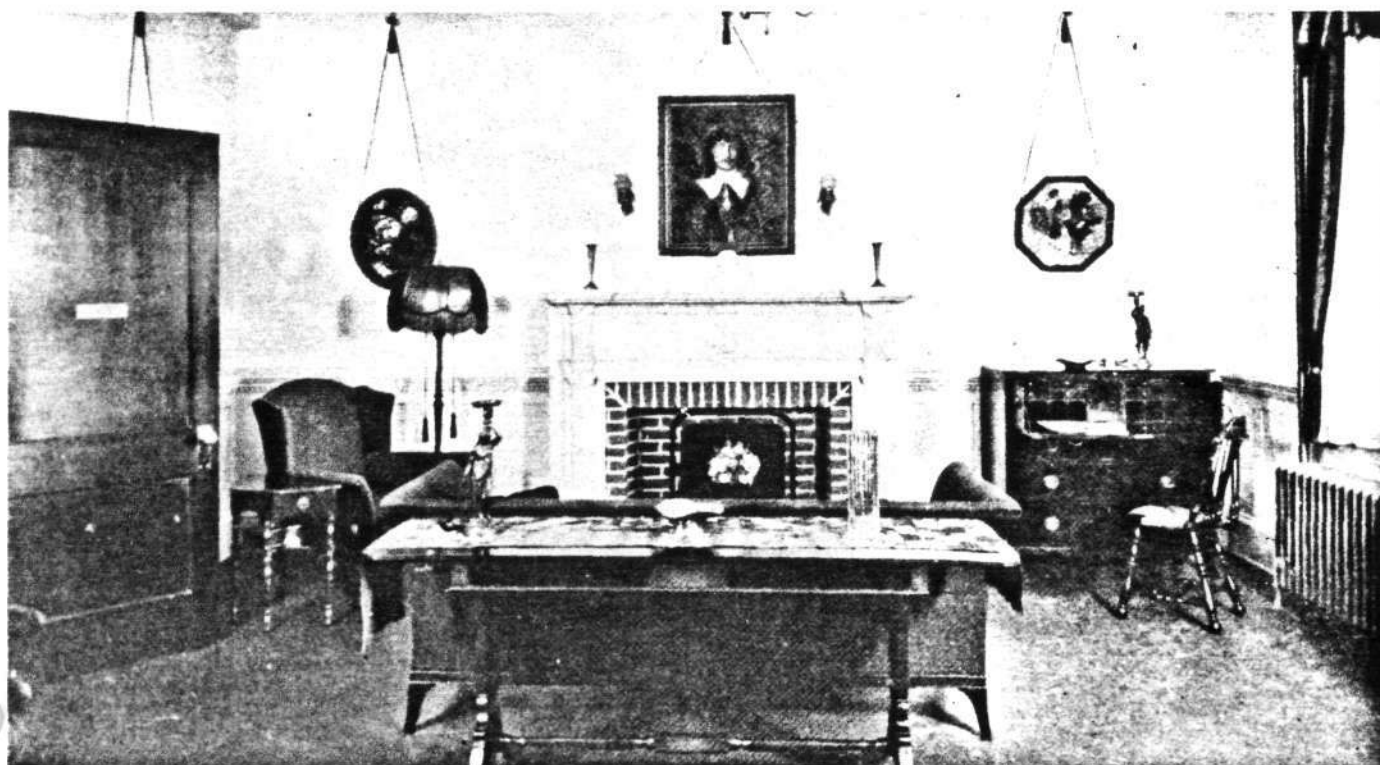
President Jackson had observed that "in the welter of other and spicier news about campus goings-on, solid accomplishments at the College are often overlooked by the news media." However, the press could not long ignore St. Mary's consistent rankings among the nation's top ten sailing and canoe/kayak teams, or the All-American honors accorded to three students, or the popular and rewarding Tidewater Music Festival, or the new Charlotte Hall Fellowships for county high school students, or the enormously successful Governor's Cup Yacht Race inaugurated in 1974. Between 1978 and 1981, the College sponsored stimulating and popular public symposia on China, the Soviet Union, and Islam; initiated a long and still-fruitful study-abroad program with the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford; opened a \$4-million fine arts center (Montgomery Hall), which has stimulated new majors in music and theater and developed into an enriching cultural resource for the surrounding community; and instituted a highly selective Honors Program that has since attracted some of Maryland's brightest students to this campus. In those same years, two distinguished scholars were members of the St. Mary's faculty—Dr. Melvin H. Jackson, former maritime curator of the Smithsonian Institution, and Professor David Beers Quinn, former chairman of the department of history at the University of Liverpool, author of more than fifty books, and considered the world's authority on the early colonization of North America. In the 1977–78 academic year, these eminent scholars collaborated on a successful College lecture series that featured internationally-known speakers and resulted in the publication of a notable collection of essays, entitled *Early Maryland in a Wider World*.

### *The Storm After the Calm*

In August 1979, an obviously pleased President Jackson observed that "St. Mary's has completed its most successful year ever. . . . The spirit of collegiality . . . is growing—one can see and feel it—and it is this spirit that will accelerate the process of transforming our good college into an excellent one." Ironically, the spirit of collegiality that helped nurture, and was nurtured by, an atmosphere of calm, steady progress on campus did not depend on, or extend to, President Jackson himself. Only two and a half years later, he would suddenly vanish, resigning his office quickly and cleanly once the Board of Trustees rallied behind the faculty and students. But an even broader and deeper sense of collegiality survived, indeed thrived, without him, evolving into a renaissance of the spirit at St. Mary's that is with us still.

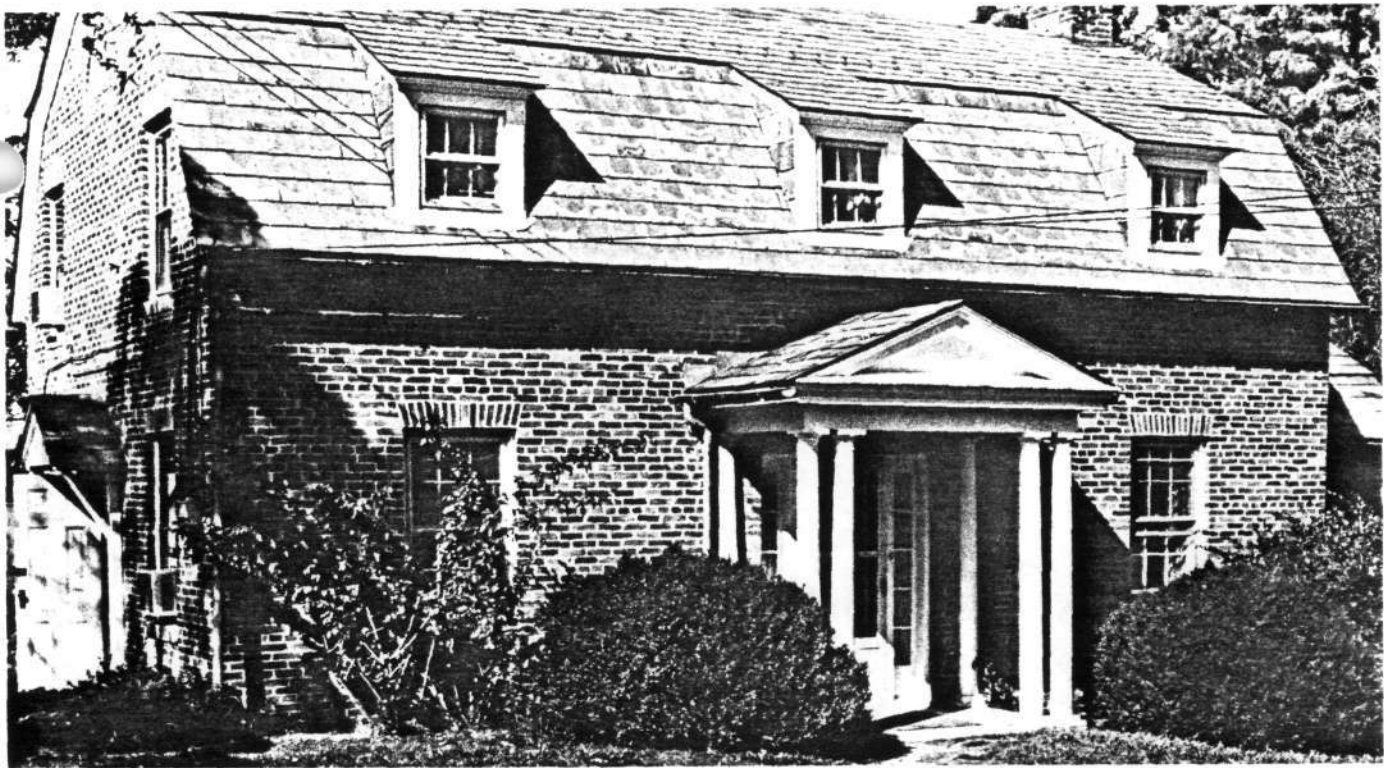


*The central entrance foyer of the new Calvert Hall, 1925, showing several of the historic furnishings donated to the school. The open door to the right now leads to the President's Office.*



*The new Reception Room in rebuilt Calvert Hall, furnished as a tribute to Mrs. Lucy Virginia Maddox, past principal (1900–1923). Note the "portrait" of Leonard Calvert above the early nineteenth-century mantle from the Throughton/ Traughton House in St. Mary's City. Today the mantle is in the Provost's Office, Calvert 104.*





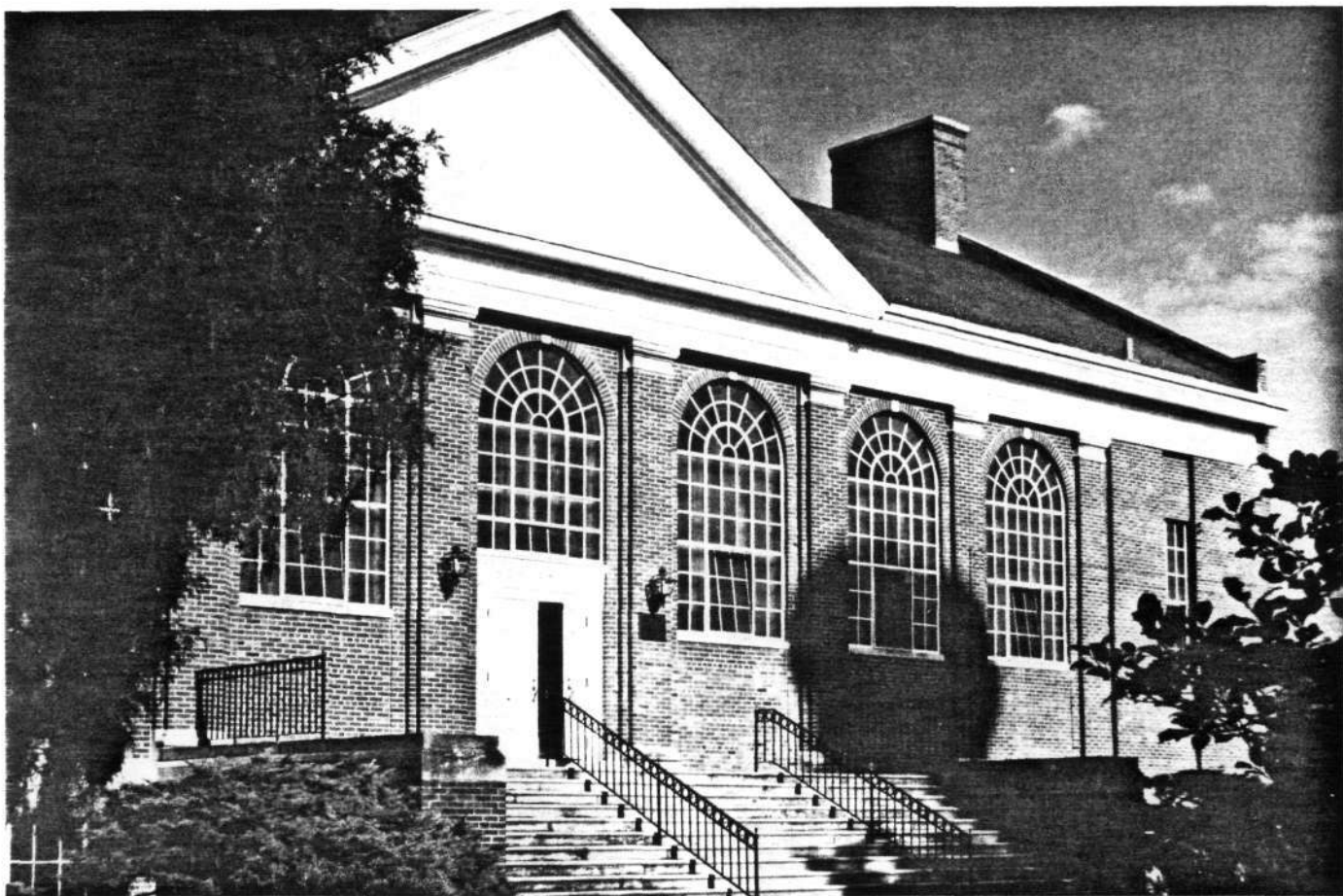
*The Alumnae Lodge, reconstructed from the Seminary stable with some \$2,000 in alumnae donations and dedicated on 4 July 1924. In June 1922, the Association's 200 members endowed the Alumnae Scholarship (still given), and the organization received a state charter of incorporation on 22 March 1927.*

two hours! And the miserable year ended happily after all!" At Commencement on 26 June 1925, eleven students graduated, having been denied a typically serene Seminary experience their last two years. Probably only one of those graduates, Elizabeth M. Dixon, had any reason to welcome the Seminary fire, for she met and soon married Baltimore architect Bernard Evander, who had come to St. Mary's to work on the reconstruction of Calvert Hall.

The 1925–26 academic year was much calmer. A growing percentage of the current student body had not even known old Calvert Hall, and they looked forward to spending the first full year in the new building, now three stories tall and equipped with all the modern conveniences. Although the riverside wing shown on the architect's plans would not be added until 1929, the white-columned building closely resembled the original structure and perpetuated the ambience of a traditional academy of the antebellum South. Moreover, Calvert Hall was furnished by benefactors who were conscious of the school's unique ties to regional heritage, so that "practically everything was of historic value." Such donated items included a painting of the first settlers, from the State House in Annapolis; a circa-1816 mantle from the Throughton/Traughton-Brome House of St. Mary's City, donated by Mr. and

Mrs. J. Spence Howard (she the daughter of Doctor Brome); a mounted composing table, alleged to have come from "the First Printing Press in the American Colonies"; a conceptualized "portrait" of Governor Leonard Calvert; a large painting for the entrance hall, donated by Mrs. T. Rowland Thomas of historic "Clocker's Fancy"; two eighteenth-century Chippendale chairs; and books contributed by Governor Ritchie, the Maryland State Library, and Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Appearances were deceptive, however, for the emphasis on the Seminary's plantation past masked progressive educational goals that would soon transform the old-fashioned boarding school into a modern, innovative junior college. Although St. Mary's Female Seminary had developed into an excellent academic institution of its type, traditionalism and provincialism had limited its horizons before 1924. The very destructiveness of the fire that year proved to be an important catalyst for a new beginning. Because that tragedy had brought unprecedented attention and assistance to the Seminary, school officials were encouraged to reevaluate and redefine its future. When Governor Ritchie and members of the 1924 General Assembly came to campus on 22 May 1926 for the dedication of a memorial plaque thanking them for their support, they could little imagine that this old, traditional school would



Exterior and interior views of The Gymnasium, dedicated on 21 March 1941. This is now Kent Hall, where the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics is located.

SM-37

SM-37

# **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐no ☐

Property Name: Anne Arundel Hall Inventory Number: Contrib. Res  
 Address: 47407 Old State Road Historic district: yes ☒ no ☐  
 City: St. Mary's City Zip Code: 20686 County: Saint Marys  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Saint Marys City  
 Property Owner: State of Maryland Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: 63  
 Project: St. Mary's College of Maryland DOEs Agency: St. Mary's College of Maryland  
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 3/6/2007

Documentation is presented in: Fausz, J.F., Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland, 1840-1990. St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD (1990); St. Mary's College of Maryland, Board of Trustees Records (1947-1964).

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: St. Mary's College of Maryland  
 Inventory Number: SM-37 Eligible: ☒ yes Listed: ☐ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ☒ yes ☐ no Name: Lewis and Sager Date: 4/20/2005

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

## **Description:**

Anne Arundel Hall is a sprawling two-story Georgian Colonial Revival academic building with multiple one-story wings. It is set back from Old State Road with lawns in front and to the southeast side, and paved parking lots at each end. Many mature trees and foundation shrubs surround the building, and a walled memorial herb garden stands at the rear between Anne Arundel Hall and Margaret Brent Hall.

Anne Arundel Hall is constructed of concrete block and faced with salmon-colored brick veneer. The brickwork is ornamented with a header belt course around the second floor and flush flared stretcher lintels above the windows. The building façade also has white-painted wood trim. A projecting brick water table surrounds the foundation. A deep molded wood cornice runs around the entire building. Windows throughout the building are mostly original six-over-six double-hung wood sash, most of which are sheltered by aluminum storm sash. Embedded in the brickwork beneath many windows are horizontal HVAC grilles.

## **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Contributes to NR-eligible St. Mary's College (SM-37)

Jonathan Sager  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/22/07  
 Date

Blunt  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

3/20/07  
 Date

200700832



Needs NumberAnne Arundel Hall

Page 2

The main block of the building consists of a two-story, seventeen-bay wide brick building with a mansard roof. The roof's lower slopes are clad in slate tile, and feature metal snow dogs and several oculus vent dormers. A large, off-center brick chimney rises from the flat top section of the roof. The roof is drained with a box gutter and round, aluminum downspouts that run through the cornice.

The primary façade, on the southwest side, has a full-height, gable-front, three-bay, slightly projecting center pavilion containing the main entrance. The gable has a full return and its interior is faced with stucco and painted white above the return. The first-floor entrance is recessed within a Greek Revival surround with single-paneled side pilasters supporting a deep tripartite entablature. The double-leaf doors are six-panel replacement doors surmounted by a five-light horizontal transom. Three single windows occupy the second floor of the pavilion. Six bays of single windows are located on each side of the center section, plus single six-paneled doors at ground level. The sides of the main block are five bays deep, with windows located on the second floor only. The rear of the building is fifteen bays wide with a flush center section containing a triple grouping of windows.

One story wings with flat roofs flank the northwest and southeast ends of the main building. The flat roofs have plain concrete parapet caps. Each wing is three bays wide and nine bays deep, and both project one bay beyond the plane of the main block's front and rear façades. Two window openings in the northwest wing have been infilled with brick. This wing also has an original rear entrance which retains its original wood and glass door.

At the rear of the main block is a one-story, six-bay, flat-roofed perpendicular hyphen connecting to a taller one-story hip-roofed wing that is parallel to the main block. This wing, originally built as a library, is three bays deep and six bays long, with taller windows than on the main block. Most windows have a six-over-nine double-hung sash fenestration pattern, and this wing also lacks storm windows. A modern commercial glass door has been installed at the rear southeast corner of the library wing. The hyphen has two entrances near its junction with the main block. An older door on the northwest side features sidelights and opens to a ramped sidewalk and the herb garden area. A newer door on the southeast side of the hyphen leads to a covered raised wooden walkway that connects Anne Arundel Hall with a modern prefabricated classroom trailer situated at the southeast rear corner of the main block.

The interior of the building features painted concrete block walls. The primary hallways have dropped acoustical ceilings and tile floors, and retain original buff-colored ceramic tile wainscoting along the lower portions of the walls. Some original hallway door openings are intact, while others have been infilled. Some original doors and moldings remain. Some original classrooms and many offices remain intact, but many of the interior's larger spaces have been reconfigured with new interior partitions as office suites or smaller rooms. Newer c. 1990s partitions are drywall with a single row of square fixed windows at the top to permit light from outer offices to penetrate the inner areas. Perhaps the most intact area in the building is the former business studies wing at the southeastern end, which still retains much of its original room configuration. A few restrooms have also been preserved largely intact with original tile floors and stone stall partitions with wood doors. More modern facilities, such as the women's restroom on the first floor at the center, reflect more recent changes. A two-story stairwell with iron balustrades is located at each front corner of the main block, with exit doors in front. In the hyphen, a large original archway is still visible at what was once the entrance to the library wing. This arch was infilled with modern wood doors c. 1970, and the double-height library now houses two floors of offices.

## History:

St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded in 1840 as a "Monument School" in honor of Maryland's founders, who had established the first colony at St. Mary's City in 1634. The school, which was originally named St. Mary's Female Seminary, opened in 1844 on a seven-acre parcel of land next to Trinity Church. This land was purchased from William and Mary Parish of

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Needs NumberAnne Arundel Hall

Page 3

the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Seminary was unusual for being a public women's boarding school offering a high-quality liberal arts education comparable to that offered by private seminaries, and its remote location in southern Maryland made its survival a struggle for many years.

In the early 20th century, the Seminary upgraded its curriculum to that of a high school, and in 1926 included a junior college division as well. The institution was renamed St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. In 1935, it was reorganized to include only the last two years of high school plus a two-year junior college program, giving students the option of two- or four-year courses. It was accredited as a four-year high school-junior college in 1940 by the Maryland State Department of Higher Education. St. Mary's remained a small single-sex institution but its future as a post-secondary school remained precarious and an overly critical state commission report in 1947 even recommended its closure.

Energetic new leadership was provided in 1948 by the arrival of Anna May Russell to assume the presidency of St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. President Russell promptly dropped "Female" from the school's name and began the difficult task of improving the junior college division and getting the school on track to earn full accreditation from the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle Atlantic States. This would bring the school more in line with national trends in higher education, as well as provide better higher educational opportunities for the swelling postwar population of St. Mary's County. A more long-term goal of hers was to upgrade the school to a four-year baccalaureate institution, and the initial improvements undertaken to solidify the junior college were viewed as key building blocks that would eventually help the school make this challenging leap in status.

In early 1951, the College made its first major land acquisition since its initial purchase of seven acres in 1844. A parcel of approximately 3.5 acres east of the original campus was purchased from school trustee J. Spence Howard and his wife Jeannette to provide the school with room to expand. At almost the same time, the St. Mary's Seminary Junior College successfully obtained a \$500,000 appropriation from the State of Maryland to construct one or more buildings. Records of the Board of Trustees had mentioned the dire need for a new classroom building as early as 1947. To attain accreditation for the junior college division, the school needed to improve its physical plant with modern academic buildings and attract a more highly qualified faculty. The \$500,000 appropriation of 1951 was spent largely to construct a faculty residence, Margaret Brent Hall, and a large classroom building, Anne Arundel Hall. In 1959, after some years of enrollment fluctuations, the addition of male commuter students and an evening division, and the acquisition of more land, the junior college division finally gained full accreditation. The high school division was dropped in 1960 and the school was renamed St. Mary's Junior College.

Within the following decade, under the continued direction of President Russell, the school expanded rapidly into a fully coed four-year baccalaureate college known from 1964 onward as St. Mary's College of Maryland. Between 1956 and 1969, it acquired 274 additional acres and added numerous buildings in a new area of campus east of Rt. 5. It became coed in the fall of 1965 and converted to a senior college in 1967. In 1992, it was designated Maryland's Public Honors College, and has retained its distinguished academic reputation to the present time.

Anne Arundel Hall was built in 1954 as a modern academic building, containing classrooms for different subjects, faculty offices, a library (rear wing), a business education wing (southeast end of first floor), and a home economics wing (northwest end of first floor). The second floor originally housed more offices, science classrooms, an art studio in the front center, and biology and chemistry laboratories along the rear. The building was designed in 1953 by James J. Baldwin, AIA, of Washington, D.C. in collaboration with Laurence P. Sangston, Principal Architect of the Maryland Department of Public Improvements (DPI). Its construction was overseen by T.R. West, District Engineer of the Maryland DPI. A cornerstone containing wood from the Wye Oak was laid in 1953. The library was housed in the rear wing, while the art, science, home economics, and business classrooms, studios, and labs were in the main block. Anne Arundel Hall was dedicated in 1954, along with Margaret Brent Hall.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



~~Needs Number~~Anne Arundel Hall

Page 4

Anne Arundel Hall has housed a number of both academic and administrative functions over the years, including the college bookstore. The library was moved to the newly completed Baltimore Hall in 1969, and its former space in Anne Arundel was renovated as a two-story office suite. Some original classrooms remain, but the school no longer offers secretarial or home economics courses, and the science laboratory facilities were moved to newer buildings on the east side of campus by the 1990s. Many of the larger rooms in the main building were renovated at this time, with several large classrooms being partitioned into department office suites. Anne Arundel Hall now houses several administrative offices of the College, including Academic Programs and Services, the Registrar, and Residence Life, as well as classrooms and faculty office space for the Psychology, Educational Studies, and Philosophy-Religious Studies disciplines.

**Significance/Justification:**

Anne Arundel Hall was the second of two major buildings constructed in the early 1950s under the tenure of President May Russell in the beginning stages of the St. Mary's Seminary-Junior College expansion. It is located on a parcel that was the school's first major land acquisition since its founding, and is the newest and biggest of the three extant large academic buildings on the west campus. It was the school's first nonresidential academic/classroom building and provided a significant modern facility to upgrade the campus and expand the school's academic programs. The spacious new laboratories and studios were a significant improvement over previous cramped quarters. Anne Arundel Hall was built in a fairly nondescript early 1950s interpretation of Georgian Colonial Revival style, which was popular for academic and public buildings from the early 1900s into the 1960s. Its exterior is relatively well preserved, with renovations including insertion of HVAC vents, replacement of most doors, infill of a few windows, and construction of wheelchair ramps in the rear hyphen area. The interior has been more extensively renovated to suit changing academic and administrative needs.

Although Anne Arundel Hall retains much of its exterior integrity, it has little distinctive or unique architectural character and is quite typical of its construction period. Therefore, Anne Arundel Hall does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, it is the most prominent of the two 1950s buildings completed as the first major phase of the school's expansion from a struggling high school-junior college into today's honors baccalaureate institution, and visually, it harmonizes with the early-to-mid-twentieth century Classical Revival character of the original campus.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

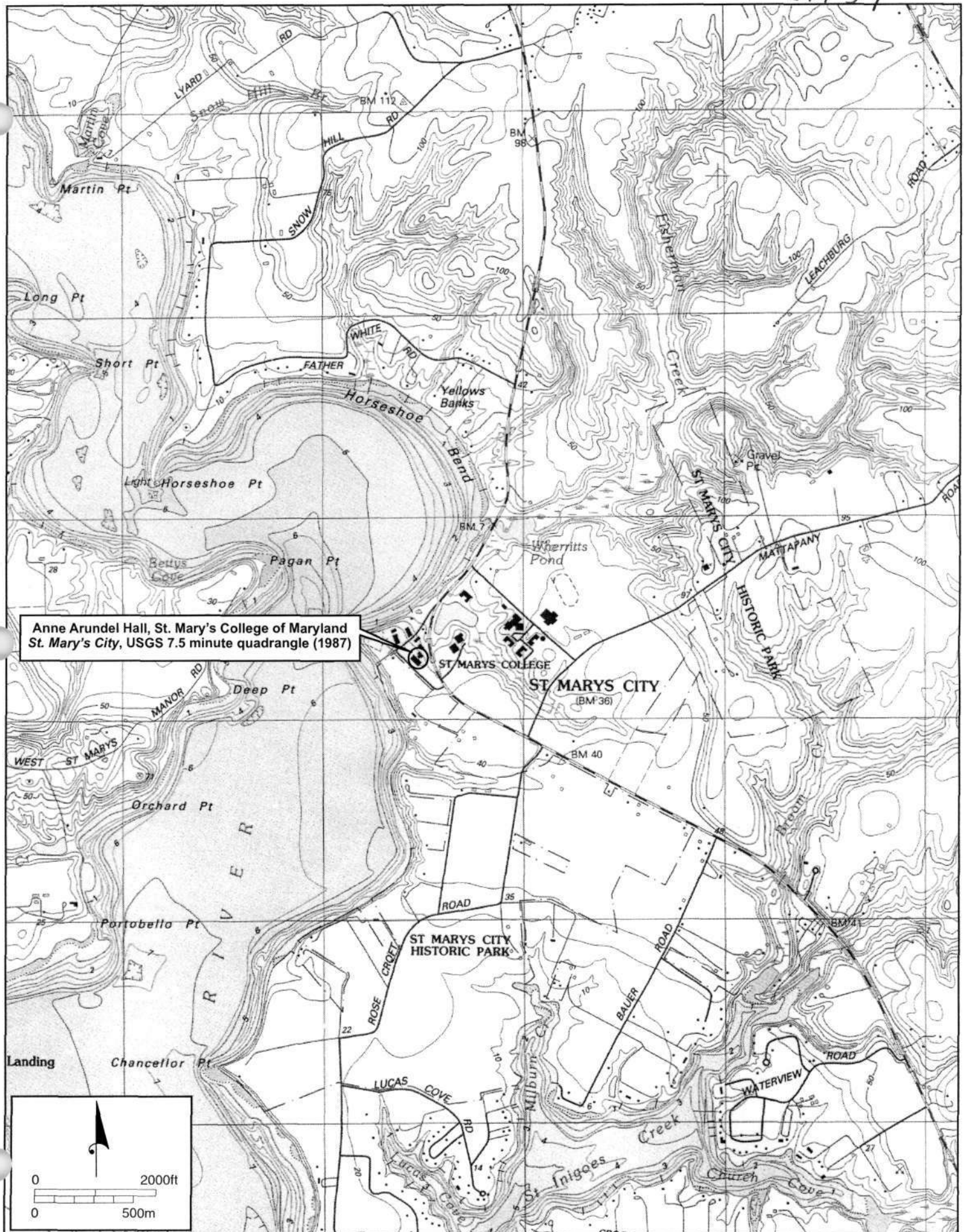
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Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, Maryland

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Primary facade, view to E

#1 of 15



MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, Maryland

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Oblique view to N

#2 of 15



MIHP# SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Side context view from Rt. 5, looking NW

#3 of 15





MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
St. Mary's County, MD  
Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

View of main block rear of hyphen & library wing to W  
#4 of 15



MIHP# SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Rear view of building at wing, to SW

#5 of 15





MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Rear view of rear wing, hyphen + main block, to SSW

#6 of 15



MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

View of side a side wing to S

#7 of 15





MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

View of side of primary facade, to E

#8 of 15



MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

View of main block facade, to NE

#9 of 15





MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Detail view of main entrance, to NE

#10 of 15



MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

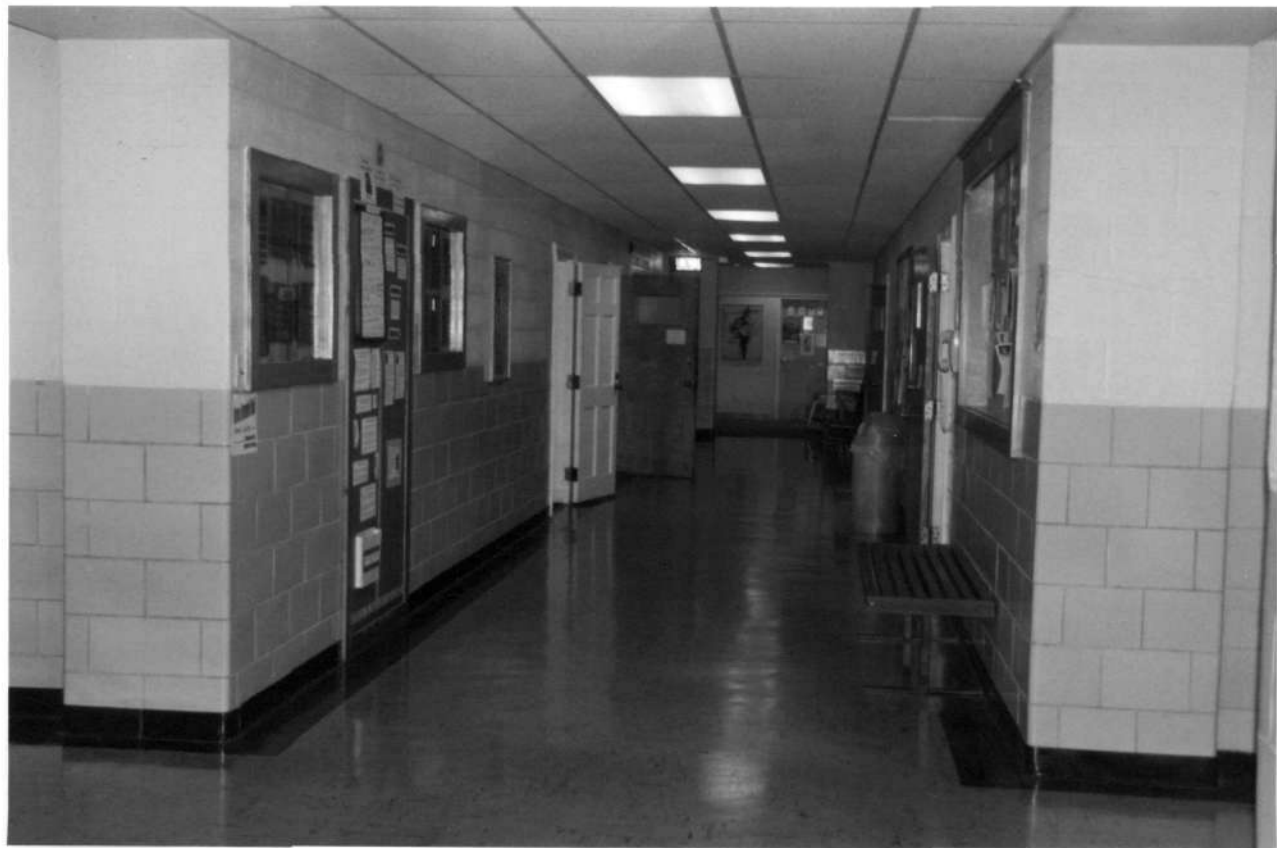
Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Detail of rear of library wing, typical window, to SW

#11 of 15





MIHP #SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Primary 1st floor corridor, view to NW from center

#12 of 15



MIHP # SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Parlor on 1st fl. of main block, former academic classroom,  
view to S.

#13 of 15



MIHP #SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Typical renovated interior space, 1st fl. NW wing, view to  
SW

#14 of 15





MIHP# SM-37

Anne Arundel Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Southeast corner stairwell, view to SW from 2nd fl. landing

# 15 of 15

SM-37

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Contrib Res

Property Name: Margaret Brent Hall Inventory Number: ~~Needs Number~~  
Address: 16821 Point Lookout Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: St. Mary's City Zip Code: 20686 County: Saint Marys  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Saint Marys City  
Property Owner: State of Maryland Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: 63  
Project: St. Mary's College of Maryland DOEs Agency: St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 3/6/2007

Documentation is presented in: Fausz, J.F., Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland, 1840-1990. St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD (1990); St. Mary's College of Maryland, Board of Trustees Records (1947-1964).

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: St. Mary's College of Maryland

Inventory Number: SM-37 Eligible: ☒ yes Listed: ☐ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ☒ yes ☒ no Name: Lewis and Sager Date: 4/20/05

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

**Description:**

Margaret Brent Hall is a two-and-one-half-story Georgian Colonial Revival building with a large central block flanked on each end by a one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled wing. It is constructed of common-bond red brick, with brick windowsills and flush brick lintels formed of rows of vertical stretchers. The wood trim is painted white. The slate roof drains to lead-coated copper, half-round hanging gutters. Round downspouts lead water runoff to underground drains. A massive brick end chimney rises from the northwest end of the main block. The windows are all original wood sash, and include both single and tripartite fenestration. The tripartite windows are composed of central eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows with flanking six-over-six double-hung sash side windows. The single windows have six-over-six double-hung sash. The windows are fitted with exterior vinyl storm windows.

The primary façade looks southwest and uphill toward the Anne Arundel Hall parking lot. The main block is seven bays wide on this elevation, and has a central entrance sheltered by a one-story flat-roofed entry porch. The fenestration on this side of the main

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Contributes to NR-eligible St. Mary's College (SM-37)

Jonathan Sager  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/22/07  
Date

B. Kintz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/20/07  
Date

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Needs NumberMargaret Brent Hall

Page 2

block consists of single windows. The Classical Revival porch features round Doric-style wood corner columns and dentil molding on the entablature, and shelters a twelve-light, one-panel original door. The porch opens to a brick terrace with low walls, and the yard in front is paved with more brick. The side elevations of the main block have no openings other than vertical louvered attic gable vents. The rear façade of the main block is four bays wide, with three aligned sets of tripartite windows on each floor and an off-center door. The six-panel door has lights in its top panels and is sheltered by a simple, gabled wood entry porch with plain narrow wood corner piers and concrete steps. A bronze tablet to the right of the door denotes the building's 1951 construction and eventual dedication in 1954. The side wings of the building are one bay long in front and back, with tripartite windows, and three bays deep on the ends, with a center infilled entrance door space flanked by single windows. These entrances have simple gabled entry porches. Each of these entrance doors was modified c. 1960 to function as a window instead. Single windows matching the original windows elsewhere on the building were installed in the top of the door space, and a rectangular wooden infill panel was placed in the void underneath. The end entrance porches were modified into balconies with the installation of a third balustrade rail across the front, but the presence of a concrete step below one porch denotes its onetime use as an entrance.

**History:**

St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded in 1840 as a "Monument School" in honor of Maryland's founders, who had established the first colony at St. Mary's City in 1634. The school, which was originally named St. Mary's Female Seminary, opened in 1844 on a seven-acre parcel of land next to Trinity Church. This land was purchased from William and Mary Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Seminary was unusual for being a public women's boarding school offering a high-quality liberal arts education comparable to that offered by private seminaries, and its remote location in southern Maryland made its survival a struggle for many years.

In the early 20th century, the Seminary upgraded its curriculum to that of a high school, and in 1926 included a junior college division as well. The institution was renamed St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. In 1935, it was reorganized to include only the last two years of high school plus a two-year junior college program, giving students the option of two- or four-year courses. It was accredited as a four-year high school-junior college in 1940 by the Maryland State Department of Higher Education. St. Mary's remained a small single-sex institution but its future as a post-secondary school remained precarious and an overly critical state commission report in 1947 even recommended its closure.

Energetic new leadership was provided in 1948 by the arrival of Anna May Russell to assume the presidency of St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. President Russell promptly dropped "Female" from the school's name and began the difficult task of improving the junior college division and getting the school on track to earn full accreditation from the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle Atlantic States. This would bring the school more in line with national trends in higher education, as well as provide better higher educational opportunities for the swelling postwar population of St. Mary's County. A more long-term goal of hers was to upgrade the school to a four-year baccalaureate institution, and the initial improvements undertaken to solidify the junior college were viewed as key building blocks that would eventually help the school make this challenging leap in status.

In early 1951, the College made its first major land acquisition since its initial purchase of seven acres in 1844. A parcel of approximately 3.5 acres east of the original campus was purchased from school trustee J. Spence Howard and his wife Jeannette to provide the school with room to expand. At almost the same time, the St. Mary's Seminary Junior College successfully obtained a \$500,000 appropriation from the State of Maryland to construct one or more buildings. Records of the Board of Trustees had mentioned the dire need for a new classroom building as early as 1947. To attain accreditation for the junior college division, the school needed to improve its physical plant with modern academic buildings and attract a more highly qualified faculty. The \$500,000 appropriation of 1951 was spent largely to construct a faculty residence, Margaret Brent Hall, and a large classroom

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

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Date\_\_\_\_\_  
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Date

Needs NumberMargaret Brent Hall

Page 3

building, Anne Arundel Hall. In 1959, after some years of enrollment fluctuations, the addition of male commuter students and an evening division, and the acquisition of more land, the junior college division finally gained full accreditation. The high school division was dropped in 1960 and the school was renamed St. Mary's Junior College.

Within the following decade, under the continued direction of President Russell, the school expanded rapidly into a fully coed four-year baccalaureate college known from 1964 onward as St. Mary's College of Maryland. Between 1956 and 1969, it acquired 274 additional acres and added numerous buildings in a new area of campus east of Rt. 5. It became coed in the fall of 1965 and converted to a senior college in 1967. In 1992, it was designated Maryland's Public Honors College, and has retained its distinguished academic reputation to the present time.

Prior to 1951, most faculty members resided in rooms in Calvert Hall, along with the students, and paid room and board. Other local housing alternatives were lacking; married faculty and male professors were forced to live some distance away in Lexington Park. This situation was increasingly a deterrent to attracting highly educated faculty. With the appropriation, the college constructed its first and only faculty residence, Margaret Brent Hall, on its new land in 1951. The large Anne Arundel Hall, a classroom and library building, was added nearby in 1953-1954. The construction of Margaret Brent Hall provided a new, more private housing alternative, which effectively made positions at St. Mary's more attractive for prospective instructors who were not single women. The building was called the Faculty House initially. It was dedicated as Margaret Brent Hall in 1954, at the same time as Anne Arundel Hall's completion and dedication. Nothing is known about the designer, but Margaret Brent Hall was built in a Colonial Revival style that complemented the older Calvert Hall and Kent Hall across the street.

It appears that the faculty housing function of Margaret Brent Hall may have been short-lived. As early as 1959, college expansion plans suggested building another faculty apartment house on the school's new land and converting Margaret Brent Hall to office space, which would free up more student housing space in Calvert Hall. According to trustee records and the school catalog of 1962-64, the first floor of the building was converted from faculty housing to administrative offices in 1962. Reportedly at least one apartment unit on the second floor was used as a residence into the 1980s. From at least 1988 onward, the college's Business Office has been housed in Margaret Brent Hall, and the building is commonly referred to as "the business office." It was renovated again in 1996. Although the exterior is well preserved, little of the original interior floorplan and finishes remain, aside from the stairs and exterior window/door openings.

#### Significance/Justification:

Margaret Brent Hall was the first of two major buildings constructed in the early 1950s in the beginning stages of the St. Mary's Seminary-Junior College expansion. It is located on a parcel that was the school's first major land acquisition since its founding, and is the only faculty housing ever built on campus. Margaret Brent Hall was the first building erected during the presidency of May Russell and was an integral step in providing amenities that would attract talented faculty and aid the expansion of the school. This private apartment-housing alternative enabled the college to hire a more diverse pool of instructors who needed housing but did not want to live in Calvert Hall with their students. The availability of separate faculty-specific housing meant that the faculty could expand beyond single female professors to include men and married women. The choice of Colonial Revival as the style of Margaret Brent Hall indicated that the Trustees and President of the early 1950s intended for the expanded college to be compatible with the traditional Classical Revival appearance of the original campus, even if the facilities met modern needs.

Renovations included infilling the entrance doors on the ends of the building with windows and paneling, and installing a railing blocking access to the entrance porches on the ends. These changes were done in a highly sympathetic manner and do not detract from the building's appearance, since the new windows match the original windows elsewhere and the openings still "read" like entrances. The interior of the building appears to have been largely gutted and remodeled as the home of the college's Business

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



~~Needs Number~~Margaret Brent Hall

Page 4

Office, and its former residential function is no longer apparent from the inside.

Margaret Brent Hall lacks strong architectural significance. It was built in a fairly nondescript early 1950s interpretation of Georgian Colonial Revival style, which was popular for academic and public buildings from the early 1900s into the 1960s, and closely resembles popular garden apartments of the period. Although it retains much of its exterior integrity, it has little distinctive or unique architectural character and is quite typical of its era. Therefore, Margaret Brent Hall does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register. However, this building was the first of the two 1950s buildings completed as the first major phase of the school's expansion from a struggling high school-junior college into today's honors baccalaureate institution, and visually, it harmonizes with the early-to-mid-twentieth-century Classical Revival character of the original campus.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

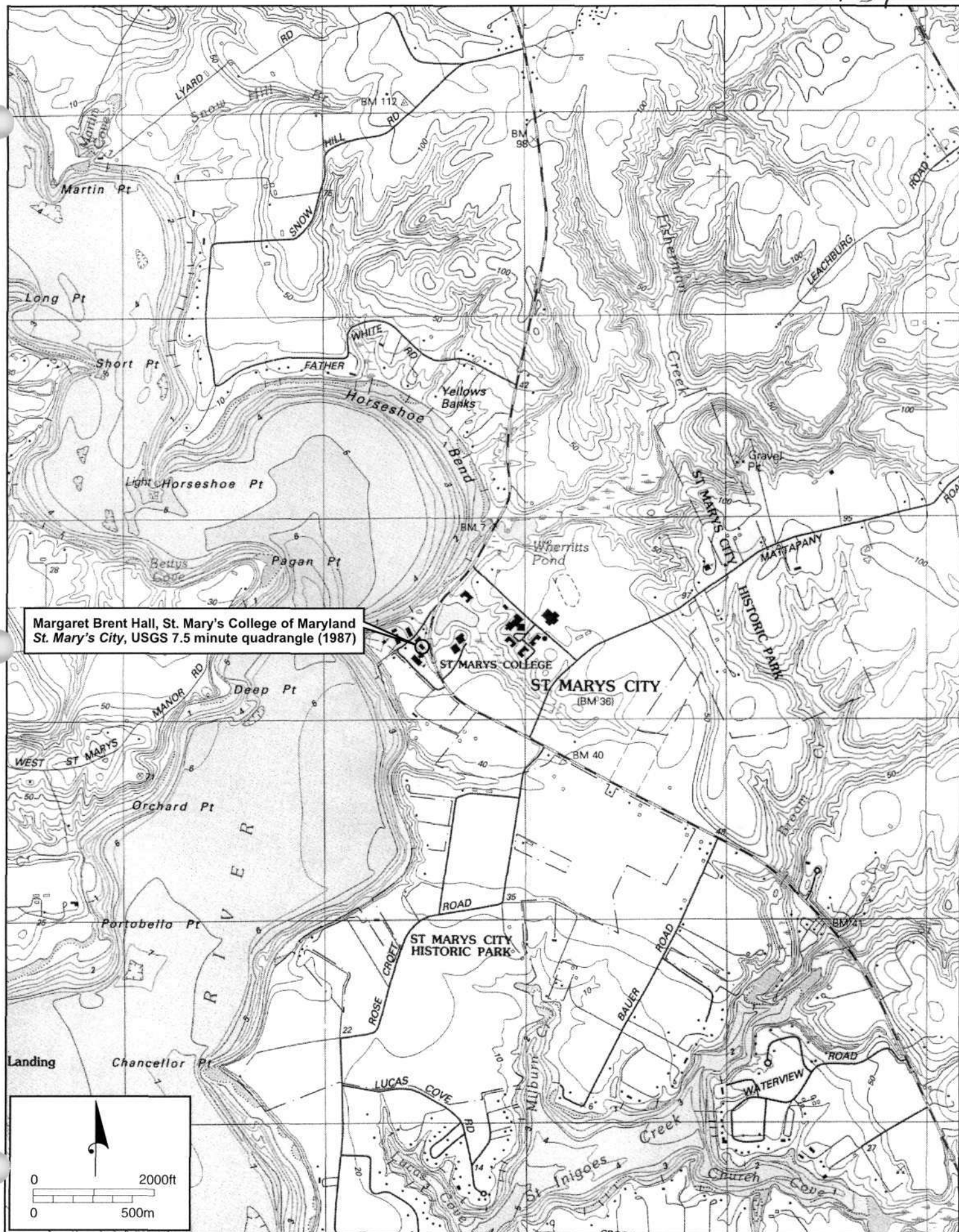
Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_\_B\_\_\_C\_\_\_D\_\_\_E\_\_\_F\_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
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Date



Margaret Brent Hall, St. Mary's College of Maryland  
St. Mary's City, USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle (1987)



MIHP # SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Primary facade, view to SE

# 1 of 7





MIHP # SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Primary facade, view to NNE

# 2 of 7



MIHP # SM-27

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Oblique view of SE side + rear, looking NW

#3 of 7



MIHP # SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Full view of rear facade, looking SW

#4 of 7





MIHP # SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Context view from Rt. 5, looking WNW

#5 of 7

MARGARET BRENT HALL  
1840 - 1951

ST. MARK'S CHURCHYARD SOCIETY  
ERECTED AS A PERMANENT MONUMENT TO THE  
GENERAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

IN TESTAMENT TO  
MISTRESS MARGARET BRENT  
THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY THE MARGARET SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF LOUISIANA AND DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA  
MAY 1951

MIHP# SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, MD

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

Detail of dedication plaque on rear entrance, to SW

# 6 of 7



MIHP# SM-37

Margaret Brent Hall

St Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's County, Maryland

Katherine Farnham

Feb. 9, 2007

MD SHPO

First floor hallway, general view to NE

#7 of 7